



# CONSTELLATION BIGOS

Artists of Polish Origin

**5-27 February 1998**

Polish Cultural Institute  
34 Portland Place  
London W1  
Telephone 0171 636 6032

### **Selected BIGOS Shows**

- 1986 **Six Polish Women Artists**  
POSK Hammersmith, London
- 1986 **First Group Show**  
Brixton Art gallery, London
- 1986 **'In Transit'** Second Group Show  
the Crypt, Bloomsbury, London
- 1987 Bigos installations and performance  
Worcester Art Gallery
- 1988 **Printmakers of Polish Origin**  
St Pauls gallery
- 1989 **Group Show (17 members)**  
BWA Sandomierz, Poland. Touring to Kraków,  
Puławy, Piła & Warszawa
- 1990 **'Mysteries Shrouds & Echos'**  
Abingdon Museum & Gallery
- 1990 **'Aliens'** Opening of made-to-measure tour  
Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford
- 1991 **'On Uncommon Ground'**  
Cartwright Hall, Bradford
- 1992 **'Foreign Bodies'**  
Huddersfield Municipal Art Gallery

The recent Bigos contribution to the A.P.A. (Association of Polish Artists in Great Britain) show at POSK in Hammersmith heralded a new phase in our artistic life together. The Polish community in Britain is at a critical point of change - the post-War generation of immigrants who made up the majority of Britain's Polish community are, mostly, in retirement. This indicates that there will be a profound demographic shift in the nature of the Polish presence in Britain over the next ten years. Bigos, artists of Polish origin, was set up in 1986 to encompass all those younger artists with Polish heritage who did not entirely identify with those who arrived in the 1940s. Bigos welcomed new immigrants, second generation non-Polish speakers and all the diverse variations of Polish heritage, in a word it was inclusive. There was tremendous energy at that time and after a few large and successful London shows with as many as 25 artists we toured Poland and then got an Arts Council grant to tour England. These touring shows were tailored for the specifics of each location. In the course of this tour we worked closely with Polish communities in Bradford, Huddersfield and other provincial towns. Now after a period of two or three years of quiescent change, this show in the Polish Cultural Institute brings our made-to-measure show to the heart of London. Space is our contingency-identity and its shifting dynamics our group material. Holding on and letting go... The future is inscribed in the artworks of today.

**Stefan Szczelkun** - December 1997

Niedawny udział członków „Bigosu“ we wspólnej wystawie ze Stowarzyszeniem Artystów Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii obwieścił nową fazę w naszych wzajemnych stosunkach. Choć przyjdzie teraz zapewne działać naszej konstelacji w ramach bardziej szacownie brzmiącego Stowarzyszenia nadal głosić będziemy program Bigosu, ideały konstruktywnej anarchii, życzliwego przyzwolenia na każdy kawałek kielbasy, na śliwkę czosnek i grzyb i na nowe smaki. Groźna to receptura i ryzykowna. Nie w smak tym co w posiadaniu niepodważalnej prawdy wiedzą co to sztuka i jak ją gotować. Nam ciekawym bliższa jest radość pichcenia i wciąż próbowania od nowa. Nie ma na Bigos innego sposobu jak ważyć go zawsze inaczej wierząc że tym razem się uda, że chwyci za serce, smakowitym ciepłem po ciele się rozleje, sił doda i dowcipu w dalszym życia polowaniu. Tak oto uroczyste zebrani po dwunastu latach gotowania na nierównym ogniu wrzuceni do garnka w trochę zmienionym gronie znów danie nasze podajemy każdy po swojemu, a przecież połączeni wiarą w polską potrawę o tysiącu smaków. Siadajmy do stołu!

**Andrzej i Maria Borkowscy** - Grudzień 1997

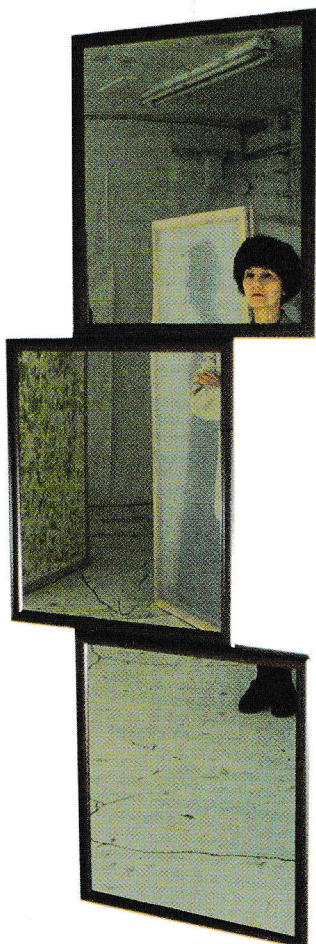


## Krystyna Shackleton Dzieszko

### MADE - UP - OF - PARTS

is an attempt to break down stereotype images towards a clearer understanding of the individual within our society.

photographic mirrored reflection (165cm x 60cm). London 1997©

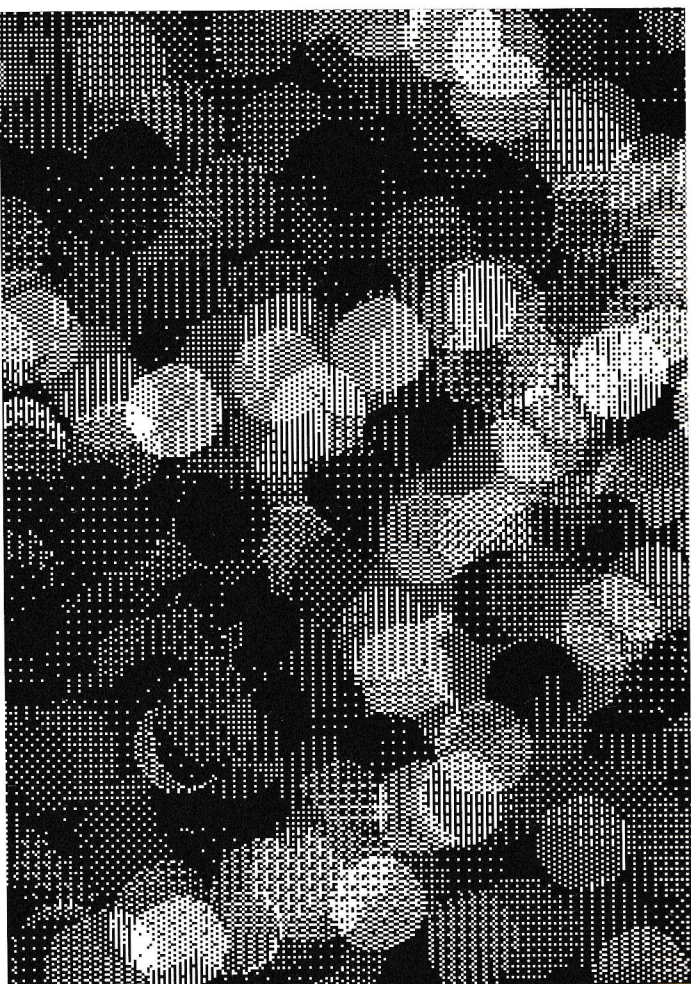


"British born, of Anglo-Polish origin, I identify with being made up of parts that are not supposed to fit together."

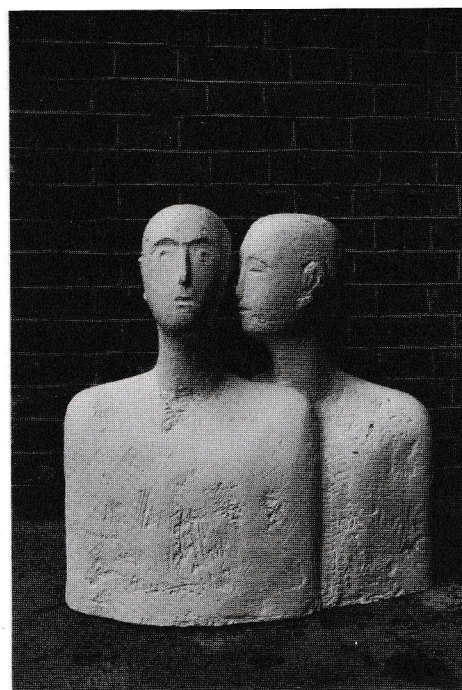
## Stefan Szczelkun



**Jolanta Scicińska**



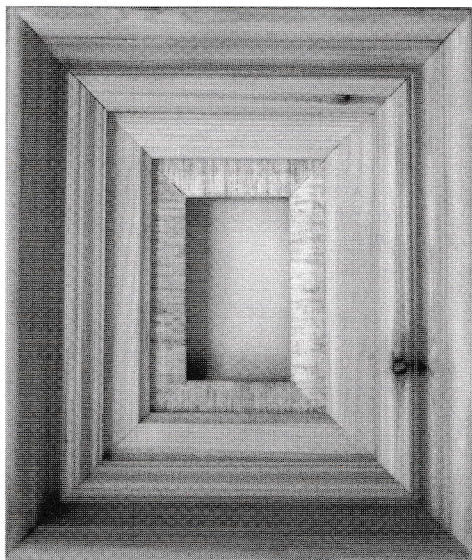
**Danuta Solowiej-Wedderburn**



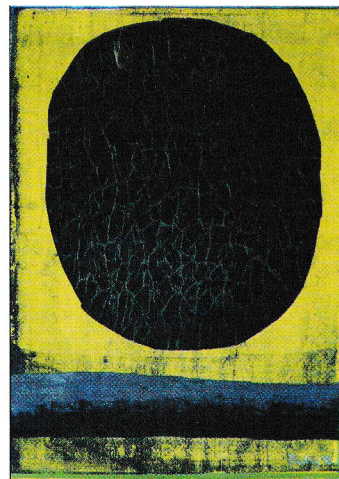
From the series WITNESSES  
1996-1997, plaster, ht. 80 cm



*My hands full of faces*



*I've painted my body with pictures*



**Andrzej, Michał, Maria & N. Borkowski**

There are four of us in me. All born in Warsaw out of the Teutonic Knight's and Tartar's blood of my Polish ancestors. Andrzej is an art historian and critic graduated at Warsaw University (M.A.) and London (M.A. Courtauld Institute). He is a sceptical and a sarcastic man, but his art could be fun. He teaches at Brighton University in the School of Art. Michał is an angel and he hardly ever touches the ground. He flies. His is a mercurian nature. It is probably he who is an actor. He worked in theatre and dance and even did some films with Melanie Griffith and one with Sting. Maria is my third name. She is a woman, the Earth and probably a better artist and poet than Andrzej but... Through her I feel. N is my fourth, unknown name. It might be an animal, wolf or ape. It is in me and plays with the other three.

*above* monoprint John Dee's Magic Mirror

**Louise Severyn-Kosińska**

*I've swallowed the words*

**Ela Ciecierska**



**Karen Strang**



**Zakonserwowana Rodzina (Family Preserve)**

*Memories of home-made preserves of fruit and vegetables.*

The subject of the installation is my Polish family, living and dead.

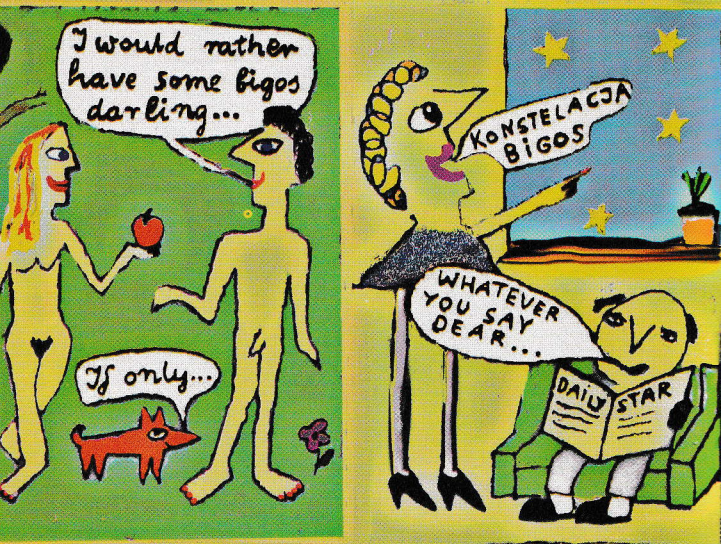
Each jar contains wax images of a family member. Preserving the souls of the dead in sealed jars, I burn candles in their memory while they sit next to open jars for the living. The jars are stacked on shelves, creating something akin to a housing block, a familiar feature of urban Poland.

I have used wax from Warsaw and Lublin where many of my family still live and others are buried. The jars are also Polish, having once housed pickled cucumber and cabbage.

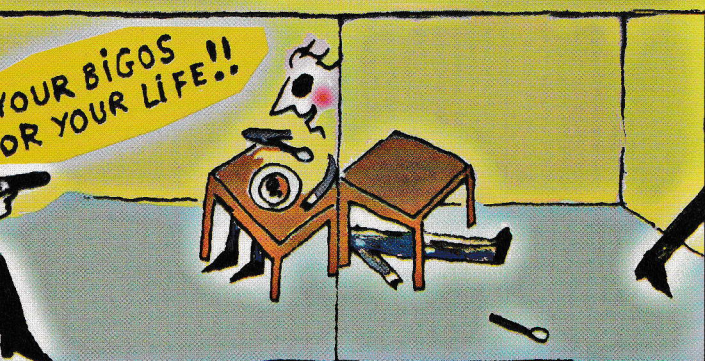
The smell of the wax is sweet and pungent, reminiscent of Poland. It is a nice concept that those buried will fertilise the plants from whose flowers the bees gather pollen - the natural cycle.



Basia Janowska



In exile...



Life without bigos? I don't think so.